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Customer No: 07055

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Herbert SCHREFL et al.

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Appln. No. : U.S. National Phase of
PCT/EP2004/052892

Examiner: Not yet assigned

I.A. Filed : November 9, 2004

For : SUCTION OR BLOWING CYLINDER

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop PCT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Prior to an examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the claims as follows:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this Preliminary Amendment.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this Preliminary Amendment.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A suction or blowing cylinder of a machine for producing and/or shaping a paper, cardboard, tissue or another fibrous material (2), said cylinder comprising a rotatable, perforated cylinder covering (1) and at least one pressure area (4) which is connected to a low pressure source or a high pressure source and is sealed in relation to the cylinder covering (1) with the aid of at least one sealing element (5, 6; 13), characterized in that the sealing element (5, 6; 13) is embodied in a flat-shaped manner and is arranged in the vicinity of the inner wall of the cylinder covering (1).
2. (Original) The suction or blowing cylinder as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the distance between the inner wall of the cylinder covering (1) and the sealing element is less than 1 mm.
3. (Original) The suction or blowing cylinder as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the distance between the inner wall of the cylinder covering (1) and the sealing element (5, 6; 13) is less than 300 mm, preferably less than 50 mm.
4. (Currently Amended) The suction or blowing cylinder as claimed in claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the distance between the inner wall of the cylinder covering (1) and the sealing element (5, 6; 13) is constant or varies in axial direction

and/or in circumferential direction.

5. (Currently Amended) The suction or blowing cylinder as claimed in ~~one of the claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that the sealing element (5, 6; 13) extends in axial direction along the complete length of the suction or blowing cylinder or it only extends along a partial length.
6. (Currently Amended) The suction or blowing cylinder as claimed in ~~one of the claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, characterized in that the sealing element (13) extends in circumferential direction along the complete inner surface of the suction or blowing cylinder covering or along almost the complete inner surface of said covering.
7. (Original) The suction or blowing cylinder as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the sealing element (5, 6; 13) is fastened to holding means (7, 8; 14, 15) provided in the vicinity of the inner surface of the suction or blowing cylinder covering.
8. (Original) The suction or blowing cylinder as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the holding means (7, 8; 14, 15) are fastened to a fixed axis or to the front side.
9. (Currently Amended) The suction or blowing cylinder as claimed in ~~one of the claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, characterized in that the sealing element (5, 6) is movably, in particular pivotably disposed in radial direction by means of at least one adjusting element (9, 10, 11, 12).

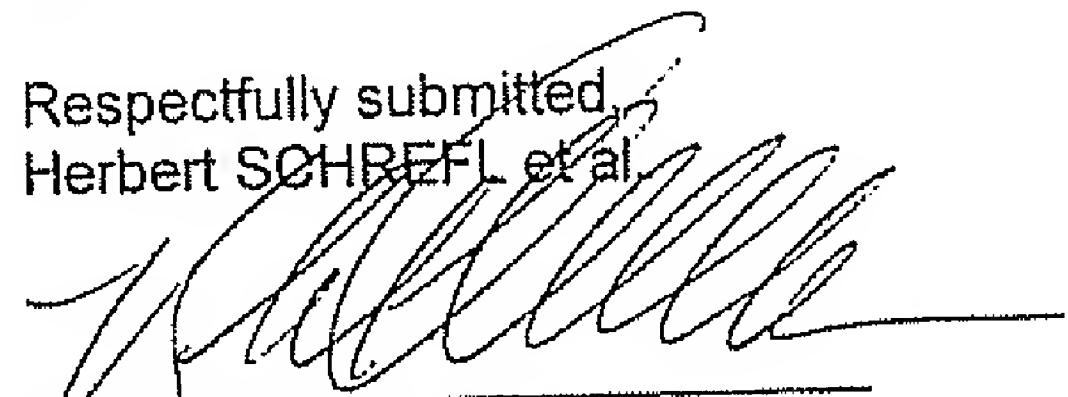
REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the foregoing amendment prior to examination of the above-identified patent application.

Applicants note that the instant amendment has been prepared to remove multiply dependent claims in order to reduce governmental filing fees and to present the claims in better form for U.S. patent prosecution. Thus, Applicants submit that the instant amendment has not been made for any reasons related to patentability such that no estoppel should be deemed to attach.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Herbert SCHREFL et al.



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